

Midlothian U12 & SSBU U14/U16 Mixed Doubles

The north east continues to be very well represented in the sport of badminton and results from recent tournaments prove that the standard of these players is on a par with the rest of the country. Seven young athletes travelled south to Tranent to compete in the Midlothian U12 event, Keira Dalton, Milltimber, David Blacklaw, Matthew Duguid, Stuart Holley, Sam Muir, Jack Murray and Scott Waddell, all Stonehaven, made up the north east compliment. This was the first time Kiera had competed outwith the local area and barring a few nerves gave a very good account of herself and will certainly be remembered for her performances. The boys also produced some great performances in the singles event with Matthew losing to eventual winner, Alex Dunn, Motherwell, in the semi final of the 'A' event, Stuart taking the honours in the 'B' and David, Sam, Jack and Scott all progressing to the 'C' knock out event. Jack and Scott were unlucky to come head to head in the first round and after a well fought match Jack emerged victorious. Sam made it through to the quarter finals and David to the semi finals both showing great determination. Jack however showed great strength, skill and stamina, taking the final honours in the 'C' event. The six boys paired up in the doubles event and once again showed great team spirit and determination. Matthew and Stuart were on good form displaying some fantastic skill, unfortunate to lose out 21 – 19 in the semi final of the 'A' section to close rivals Anthony Grimley and Ross Paterson. Scott & Sam won their first round match in the 'B' knock out but were unlucky to meet experienced Mauchline pair, Stuart Dyce & Jack Riddell in the 2nd round, despite a good effort losing the tie. David & Jack made it to the quarter final of the 'B' event where they lost out after a very exciting and hard fought match, 28 – 26. In the U14 and U16 age group 6 Stonehaven athletes, Mark Leith (S1), Fiona Craigen (S2), Jacob Reynolds (S2), Samantha Holden (S3), Calum Hay (S3) and Sean Leith (S3), all Mackie Academy, made the trip to Wishaw to compete in the Mixed Doubles tournament. In the U14 section Fiona partnered Mark, Sean teamed up with regular partner, Sophie Morrison, Motherwell whilst Jacob partnered Kirsty Baird, Bellahouston Academy for the first time. After good solid performances from each pair, with all winning their pools comfortably, they all won through to the semi finals. This was a great result for Fiona and Mark with Mark playing a year above his age group and an excellent result for Jacob playing in a new partnership with Kirsty. Sean and Sophie won through the semi stages to reach the final where they went on to lift the title beating regular opponents Alasdair Gordon and Julie Macpherson, Edinburgh in a close fought 2 set match 21-19, 21-18. In the U16 event Samantha and Calum played well and were desperately unlucky not to record a victory with 2 close fought 3 set matches, both results going against them. They lost out in the quarter final of the 'B' event losing out to eventual finalists, Alexander Caghey and Kelly Sands. Once again great performance from all involved. Joan Prieur, badminton development officer, commented "all of these Aberdeenshire Squad players have shown great dedication to the sport and continue to compete and achieve success at a high level. These results offer great encouragement to the younger players and help build on what is already a solid structure of development in the Aberdeenshire area."



L to R: David Blacklaw, Jack Murray, Matthew Duguid, Keira Dalton, Stuart Holley, Scott Waddell, Sam Muir